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1. *Angry old white men*

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Angry old white men

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Section: LETTERS; Pg. A13

Length: 363 words

Byline: Bernie Smith, National Post

Dateline: Parksville, B.C.

Body

Re: Pope apologizes for 'bad example' of slapping arm of pilgrim who tugged him, Jan. 1, online On Dec. 31, the final day of the past decade, Pope Francis was filmed slapping the hand of a lady who reached out to hold his hand during a meet-and-greet-the-faithful ritual in St. Peter's Square.

Maybe Papa Francisco figured he'd done enough meeting and greeting, but his slap brought global accusations that he acted like an angry old white man towards the lady, who appeared to be of Oriental descent. There was an apology forthcoming the next day.

That terminology of "angry old white man" has entered the Letters Pages quite frequently in recent times, and is usually directed against anyone whose opinion about ***climate*** change does not completely agree with the gloom-and-***doom*** hysteria and extinction scenarios laid out by some of our society's youngsters.

I'm now called an angry old white man by more than one social justice warrior because my opinion is not exactly in line with theirs. There's no middle ground, apparently; it's their way or the highway, even if their name-calling is ageist, racist and sexist - but who cares about that? So, now I find myself compared with the spiritual leader of 1.2 billion followers, as an angry, old white man. It's all very strange. Bernie Smith, Parksville, B.C.

An 83-year-old man gets his arm grabbed causing obvious pain and as the woman who grabbed him won't let go, he slaps her hand - for which he later apologizes. This shouldn't be a worldwide story, although as he is the Pope and he is a leader and role model for so many people the action takes on a new meaning.

The message as reinforced by the Pope later is that you shouldn't hit women although in reality you shouldn't hit anyone, even in self-defence, if it can be avoided. A couple of slaps on the hand won't cause too much harm, but we see so much violence in the world that every slap diminishes us as humans.

There should be no violence anywhere. Let's pray for a better world but more importantly let's put it into personal action, even in our own small, daily lives. Dennis Fitzgerald, Melbourne, Australia !@COPYRIGHT=© 2020 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

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